



Epi-Ready Team Training

A Workshop on Foodborne Illness Response Strategies

The National Environmental Health Association, in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Infectious Diseases-Food Safety Office, is pleased to offer a free training opportunity for environmental health professionals working in city, county, and state health departments, environmental protection agencies, and individuals from agencies or private companies that have collaborated with environmental health professionals in conducting foodborne disease outbreak investigations. Selected teams/individuals will be responsible for their own travel, lodging, and per diem expenses.

Epi-Ready Team Training is a nationwide initiative intended to provide up-to-date foodborne disease outbreak investigation and surveillance training. The primary workshop objective is to present educational materials and implementation strategies designed to enhance the competence and confidence level of environmental health professionals. Training will include interactive group exercises, question and answer sessions, and didactic lectures on passive surveillance, outbreak determination, environmental assessment, epidemiological investigation, laboratory guidance, and final report writing.

Epi-Ready Team Training amalgamates the many health disciplines (e.g., environmental health, epidemiology, laboratory, public health nursing, etc.) involved in conducting a successful outbreak investigation in order to emphasize the importance of teamwork. Up to 50 local health professionals will be chosen to participate in the workshop.

Epi-Ready Team Training and *Epi-Ready Train-the-Trainer* workshops will be held at the Madison County Health Department, 309 Park Dr. Canton, Mississippi 39046, August 26-28. The first workshop will be the *Epi-Ready Team Training* workshop held on August 26th & 27th. The second workshop will be the *Epi-Ready Train-the-Trainer* workshop and is an optional additional one day course on August 28th (please see below for details). Certificates and CE credits will be awarded at each course.

The *Epi-Ready* workshops will be conducted using the following schedule:

Epi-Ready Team Training

Tuesday, August 26 (8:00 AM – 5:00 PM)
Wednesday, August 27 (8:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

Epi-Ready Train-the-Trainer

(Prerequisite: *Epi-Ready Team Training*)

Thursday, August 28 (8:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Please Note! This training will emphasize the importance of the teamwork involved in foodborne disease outbreak investigation. As a result we *strongly* encourage team applications (required if participating in the Train-the-Trainer). Teams should consist of two to three individuals from at least 2 separate health disciplines (e.g. environmental health professional, epidemiologist, and laboratory). When choosing a team, think of the individuals that would receive the first phone calls in your department given an outbreak situation. Please include complete contact information for each team member in the application.

Please provide the following information for each team member:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name-• Title-• Company/Organization-• Phone-• Address-• Email-• Brief job description-
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Length of time in your field-• Will you be attending the Train the Trainer-
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What other foodborne disease outbreak investigation and surveillance training courses have been taken by you or other staff in your department?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirmation that you have the support of management to undertake and participate in an ongoing foodborne disease outbreak investigation and surveillance program.

☞ ***Train-the-Trainer Course***- Those teams wishing to become *Epi-Ready Trainers* should ensure their team is composed of an EH professional, a laboratorian, and an epidemiologist who together possess the desire and abilities to teach large groups of students. Upon satisfactory completion of the training each team will receive a generic instructor's version of the *Epi-Ready* course curriculum and agree to (a) at their cost, conduct a workshop in their local jurisdiction within one year and (b) potentially be called upon to assist NEHA at a future, expense paid *Epi-Ready* workshop.

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Applications should be submitted electronically to Elizabeth Ostertag at costertag@neha.org. **Please indicate whether you are applying for two days or three days of the workshop and please provide all information for all team members.**

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 PM EST July 28, 2008. Notification of successful applicants will be made on a rolling basis for your planning purposes, but no later than 5:00 PM EST August 1, 2008. All notifications will be made via e-mail.

Any questions concerning this workshop or the application process should be directed to:

Elizabeth Ostertag
costertag@neha.org
303.756.9090 x 346

